

**NEW JERSEY HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 18, 2012**

The regular meeting of the New Jersey Human Relations Council was held on January 18, 2012, at the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex, Market Street, Trenton, New Jersey. Chairperson Jim Peeler called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Those serving on the Council and Advisory Board in attendance were the following: DAG Hester Agudosi, Mr. Bobby Battle, Mr. Tawfiq Barqawi, Mr. Richard Biolsi, Rabbi Adam Feldman, Ms. Wendy Galloway, Mr. Lawrence James, Mr. Eugene Kent, Mr. Corbett S. Klein, Mr. Steven Landfield, Chief Michael Mastronardy, Ms. Mary McGowan, Ms. Yumiko Mishima, Mr. Jim Peeler, Dr. Joan Rivitz, Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, Mr. Chuck Stein, and Ms. Reisa Sweet. Others attending were: Guest Speaker, Ms. Carol Berger, J.D., Criminal Justice Liaison, Community Education Centers; Ms. Evaneline Banks, DAG Joseph Faranoff of the Attorney General's Office; Mr. Keegan Ferrell, NJ Division of Civil Rights, Mr. Eugene Kent, Camden County Human Relations Council; Mr. Dave Korman, Salem County Human Relations Council, Lt. Jeffrey Lenox, Toms River Police Department and Ms. Holly Lees, Administrative Support for the NJHRC from the PS&CB.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

All assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Open Public Meeting Act Statement

Chairperson Peeler read the statement that pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et. seq., notice of the meeting was filed with the Secretary of State, the *Asbury Park Press*, *The Times*, *The Courier Post*, *The Star-Ledger* and posted in the Office of the Attorney General.

Reading of Mission Statement

Chairperson Peeler read the Mission Statement: "The purpose of the New Jersey Human Relations Council shall be to promote prejudice reduction, education and address the problems of bias and violent acts based on the victim's race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation gender or disability." Further, Chairperson Peeler stated that "this is our purpose and we will adhere to our purpose".

Introductions

Council, Advisory Board members and guests introduced themselves, and briefly told of their affiliations.

Minutes

Chairperson Peeler advised the Minutes of the September 28, 2011 will be approved and presented at the March 21, 2011 meeting.

Meeting Presentation

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Chairperson's Report

- Chair Peeler said that he wishes the NJHRC to be more proactive in following our Mission this year.
- He did not feel that 2011 was a satisfying year for the HRC because of lack of attendance by Council and Board members; along with the very upsetting canceling of the Annual Conference due to lack of response.
- He asked Council and Advisory Board members to sign up for at least one committee.
- He encouraged members to reach out to their local HRCs and bring back news and information from them.
- Ms. Lees is still working on the County and Municipal HRC directory and has asked the County Council and Board members reach out to their respective HRC's and provide Ms. Lees with updated

contact information, updates and information on their HRC's activities and proposed activities and events.

- Chair announced the Annual Conference and Awards Luncheon will be May 15, 2012. Chair advised that every one on the Council and Board will need to be present and bring people in order for the Conference to be a success.
- Chair announced the need for Nominations from the Council and Board for the Annual Conference Awards; nomination letter, form and guidelines were distributed and will be posted on the HRC website.
- Chair asked anyone with important news and events from their HRC or community to email Ms. Lees so that information may be posted on the website in a timely manner.
- The HRC will be asking for every one's help in researching and designing a Manual for Incarcerated Parents in New Jersey. Will use Florida's Manual as a template and resource. (Florida Manual handed out)

COMMITTEE'S:

- Chair requested members sign up and activate the committee's of the Council. The committee's are as follows:

Education Committee ~

Promotes & locates progressive prejudice reduction education for youth & adults.

- Members signed up: Dr. Joan Rivitz, **Chair**, Ms. Reisa Sweet, Mr. Chuck Stein, and Dr. Paul Winkler.
 - Dr. Rivitz stated she will send Ms. Lees the names of the other current members.

Community Outreach & Human Relations Commissions Liaison ~

Develops communication strategies for the Council to communicate and assist county and municipal HRC's in achieving their objectives.

- Members signed up:

Law Enforcement and Community Relations ~

Facilitates programs for the law enforcement community and addresses the problems associated with bias crime.

- Members signed up: Maj. Wendy Galloway (Ret.), **Chair**; Mr. Richard Biolsi

Policy and Reports Committee ~

Compiles reports and recommendations that represent the findings and positions of the HRC.

- Members signed up:

Housing Committee ~

Addresses housing issues and impact on diversity.

- Members signed up: Steven Landfield, **Chair**

Public Relations Committee ~

Inform the public and promote the HRC it's projects, activities and events.

- Members signed up: Corbett Klein (will be member, but not Chair)

Advisory Board

- Waiting for Corbett Klein's notes...

Annual Conference

- Chief Hester Agudosi announced the Conference, "Resource-Reentry=Results", on May 15, 2012 to be held at the Hughes Justice Center, Trenton, NJ.
- Nomination letter, nomination guidelines and nomination form were handed out to all members.
- Chief Agudosi asked that all forms be returned to Ms. Lees on or before April 13, 2012.
- There will be a moderator and panels of experts.
- The Annual Unity Awards will again be a portion of the Conference. Co-chairs of this portion of the Conference will be **MEMBERS NAMES NEEDED**.

HRC Reports

Chair Peeler asked that HRC reports be emailed to Ms. Lees to be included on the NJHRC's website.

Announcements

- Chief Michael Mastronardy (Toms River) announced Toms River Police Department will be accepting applications for 2012 Entrance Exams after May 1, 2012. The list will be good for 3-years.
- DAG Joseph Faranoff of the Attorney General's Office announced on April 21, 2012 in Atlantic City the OAG is sponsoring the *Fugitive Safe Surrender* program. An individual can turn him/herself in the week of 04/21-25, 2012 and receive amnesty on outstanding warrants.
- This is the 4th event and prior events have had 10,000 fugitives and cleared more than 5,000 cases.
- Mr. Eugene Kent announced the Camden County Human Relations Commission will have their official swearing in of officers on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.
- Attorney General Dow has announced October 4th as the kick-off date for the "Fugitive Safe Surrender" for Central New Jersey. An individual can turn him/herself in the week of 11/3-11/6 and receive amnesty on outstanding warrants.
- Please R.S.V.P. to Ms. Lees regarding attendance at meetings. It is very difficult to effectively prepare for the meetings without responses.

Next Meeting Date: Wed., March 21, 2012

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Lees

Holly A. Lees, Secretary